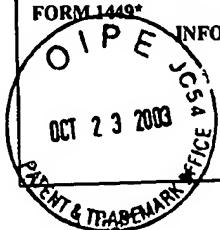


Date Mailed: October 20, 2003

Sheet 1 of 1

|   |                                 |                                   |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>FORM 1449*</b><br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b><br><b>IN AN APPLICATION</b><br><small>(Use several sheets if necessary)</small> | Docket Number:<br>10873.830US01 | Application Number:<br>10/002,913 |
|   | Applicant: KITABATAKE           |                                   |
|   | Filing Date: October 23, 2001   | Group Art Unit: 2826              |
|   |                                 |                                   |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS  |              |                 |                 |       |          |                            |
|--|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| EXAMINER INITIAL   | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE            | NAME            | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| <i>AP</i>  | 5,545,905    | August, 1996    | Muraoka, et al. |       |          |                            |
|  | 5,614,749    | March, 1997     | Ueno            |       |          |                            |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS   |              |                 |                 |       |          |                            |
|  | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE            | COUNTRY         | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION                |
|  | 2-100367     | April, 1990     | Japan           |       |          | Abstract                   |
|  | 3-110867     | May, 1991       | Japan           |       |          | Abstract                   |
|  | 4-261065     | September, 1992 | Japan           |       |          | Abstract                   |
|  | 6-302811     | October, 1994   | Japan           |       |          |                            |
|  | 7-131016     | May, 1995       | Japan           |       |          | Abstract                   |
|  | 8-204179     | August, 1996    | Japan           |       |          |                            |
|  | 9-102602     | April 1997      | Japan           |       |          | Abstract                   |
| <i>V</i>   | 00/51167     | August, 2000    | WIPO            |       |          |                            |
|  |              |                 |                 |       |          |                            |
| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) |              |                 |                 |       |          |                            |
|  |              |                 |                 |       |          |                            |
|  |              |                 |                 |       |          |                            |
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.